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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,391	01/28/2004	Anthony Di Bitonto	B0224.0079	2535

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHONG H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3724

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/01/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/765,391	DI BITONTO ET AL.
	Examiner Phong H. Nguyen	Art Unit 3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,5-8,16,17,20 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,5-8,16,17,20 and 22 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, a pair of side surfaces for the bottom elongated member and the top elongated member in claims 1 and 22 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 5, 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Litton (Des. 392,419) in view of Fink (3,169,312).

Regarding claims 1, 5 and 16, Litton teaches a nail clipper comprising top and bottom elongated members, a post, a lever and a bumper on a bottom surface of the bottom member. See Fig. 1.

Litton fails to teach a pair of side surfaces connecting to the top elongated member and the bottom elongated member.

Fink teaches providing a pair of side surfaces 32 connecting to a top elongated member and a bottom elongated member for forming a house for storing cut-nail portions. See Figs. 1-8. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a pair of side surfaces as taught by Fink to the nail clipper of Litton for forming a house for storing cut-nail portions.

Regarding claim 8, the cutting edges are at an angle of 90 degrees with respect to a central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members.

4. Claims 1, 6, 7, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsay (5,063,666) in view of Litton (Des. 392,419) and Fink (3,169,312).

Regarding claims 1, 16, 17, 19 and 22, Tsay teaches a nail clipper comprising top 31 and bottom 3 elongated members, a post 4 and a lever 2. See Fig. 1.

Tsay fails to teach providing a bumper on a bottom surface of the bottom member. Litton teaches providing a bumper on a bottom surface of the bottom member for comfortably gripping. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a bumper as taught by Litton on a bottom surface of the bottom member of the Tsay's nail clipper for comfortably gripping.

Tsay fails to teach a pair of side surfaces connecting to the top elongated member and the bottom elongated member.

Fink teaches providing a pair of side surfaces 32 connecting to a top elongated member and a bottom elongated member for forming a house for storing cut-nail portions. See Figs. 1-8. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a pair of side surfaces as taught by Fink to the nail clipper of Tsay for forming a house for storing cut-nail portions.

Regarding claim 6, Tsay teaches the invention substantially as claimed except for a thumb accept depression on the lever. Litton teaches a thumb accept depression on a lever. See Fig. 1. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a thumb depression as taught by Litton on the lever surface of the Tsay's nail clipper for comfortably gripping.

Regarding claim 7, cutting edges of the Tsay's nail clipper are at an angle with respect to a central longitudinal axis of the elongated member.

Regarding claim 20, the bumper is best seen in Fig. 1 in Litton.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5-8, 16, 17, 20 and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phong H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4510. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

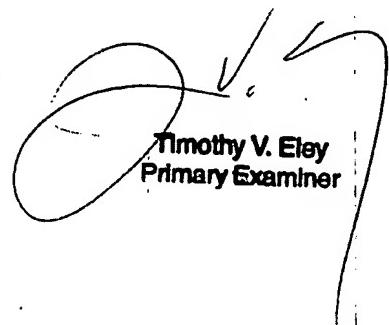
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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April 26, 2007



Timothy V. Eley
Primary Examiner